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the sectional committee for five years and Professor T. F. Focke member of the general committee. On recommendation of the sectional committee Professor Frank Schlesinger, director of the Allegheny Observatory, was elected vice-president and chairman of the section, and Professor F. R. Moulton, University of Chicago, was elected secretary for five years.

G. A. MILLER,
Secretary of Section A

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A SPECIAL meeting of the society was held December 3, 1912, at 4:30 P.M., in the New Museum Building, Mr. Stetson, the president, in the chair.

Mr. Wm. H. Babcock read a paper on "The Islands of Antillia," illustrated by lantern slide maps, taking the title of his paper from Peter Martyr's "Decades of the New World," where that author, in view of "the cosmographers," states that he believes these islands were what his contemporary, Columbus, had discovered. Peter Martyr's own sketch map of 1511 was exhibited, showing Florida as one of them under the name of Beimeni: also the maps of Beccaria, Bianco, Pareto and Benincasa, from 1435 to 1482, who may be among "the cosmographers" referred to. They show a group of four large islands roughly corresponding in size, arrangement and other respects with Cuba, Jamaica, Florida or Beimeni and Andros of the Bahamas, and bear on Beccaria's map the names Antillia, Reylla, Salvagio and Insula in Mar (Opposite Island or Island out Before, King Island, Savage Island and Island in the Sea). These are nearly as far west of the Azores as the latter are west of Europe and in such a location must be either the creatures of mere fancy or appurtenances of America. But it is not likely that mere guess-work could produce the remarkable correspondences of these great map islands with the reality, such an island group being altogether unique in the Atlantic.

Behaim's globe of 1492 contains an inscription to the effect that a Spanish vessel visited Antillia in 1414, more vaguely endorsed by another on the map of Ruysech (1508) which credits the Spaniards with finding Antillia long ago. That something of the kind happened in the first quarter of the fifteenth century may be inferred from the fact that Beccaria (1535) names the group collectively "The Newly Reported Islands," most likely borrowing this title legend from his earlier

map of 1426, although the fourteenth-century maps had contained no suggestion of Antillia and her consorts.

The other fifteenth-century maps named corroborate Beccaria, being very consistent in outline and arrangement so far as they go, although two of them give but three islands and Bianco shows only Antillia and a part of Salvagio, which he calls La Man de Satanaxio, but this last seems to be a case of mutilation. However, the Laon globe of 1493 shows only these two main (rectangular) islands.

A current map showed how naturally any craft entering and continuing in the great-sea-current which sweeps from the Azores and the other eastern islands westward to the Antilles would be carried to Cuba and her neighbors.

The Catalan map of 1375 and the Pizigani map of 1367 with its picture of St. Brandan blessing his Fortunate Islands of Porto Santo and Madeira, and the figures of a dragon and a dentapod, each carrying off a seaman from his ship as a warning against westward exploration, were also exhibited. They show the circular island of Brazil west of Ireland and the more southerly crescent-form Man or Brazir, both being important and persistent legendary islands: and the Catalan map in particular shows all the Azores approximately in their real grouping; but neither of them presents anything like the Islands of Antillia.

Dr. Philip Newton read a paper on the Negritoess of the Philippines, estimating their total number (full bloods) at 5,000, though by counting mixed-blood tribes and individuals the estimate is sometimes carried up to 25,000. They are distributed through numerous islands, though not reported from Mindoro. The greater number are on Luzon. There is no difference in them, except as their blood is mingled with that of neighboring races. They are not fishermen, but hunt and gather natural products, using in some districts poisoned arrows, the symptoms of poisoning being like those of strychnine. Their houses are made of upright poles connected by horizontal poles having cross pieces and leaf thatching. They are buried under or near these homes. They rarely bathe and their clothes (which are breech-clouts or aprons) are apparently never washed. Usually these are of cloth obtained in trade, but in some islands, for example Palawan, bark is used. Negritoess do not regularly practise agriculture, but will sometimes plant rice—and perhaps move away before it ripens. A skin disease is the most

prevalent among them, but malaria also prevails. Three incipient cases of tuberculosis were noted. Some other diseases are derived from their neighbors.

W. H. BABCOCK,
Secretary

THE HELMINTHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

THE twelfth regular meeting of the Helminthological Society of Washington was held at Mr. Crawley's residence, November 21, 1912, Mr. Crawley acting as host and chairman.

The secretary presented a paper by Dr. B. H. Ransom entitled "An Important Newly Recognized Parasitic Disease of Sheep." Less than a year ago reports began to come in from inspectors in packing establishments where federal meat inspection is maintained, that a considerable number of sheep were found, on post-mortem inspection, to be infested with tapeworm cysts. These were located in the musculature, and as the infested meat had to be condemned it was a matter of considerable economic importance. German authorities have referred an armed cysticercus in the meat of sheep to *Cysticercus cellulosæ* and it was first thought that this was the case here. But the fact that from one to four per cent. of the sheep killed at some establishments were infested indicates that this was not the case, as *Cysticercus cellulosæ* is very rare in its normal host, the hog, in this country. Microscopic study showed that the form found in sheep was similar to *Cysticercus cellulosæ*, but nevertheless distinct. It seemed further unlikely that the adult tapeworm should be a human tapeworm, as it ought to be reasonably common and to have been recorded before this. The logical host of the adult worm was held to be the dog, and in this connection it may be noted that French investigators of the cysticercus in the meat of sheep have held it to be an aberrant *Cysticercus tenuicollis*, the hooks of the two forms being very similar.

The matter was settled by feeding cysticerci from the meat of sheep to five dogs, and *Cysticercus tenuicollis* to two dogs. All of the dogs developed tapeworms, but those of the five dogs were distinct from those of the two fed *Cysticercus tenuicollis*. Six sheep were then fed tapeworm eggs from the tapeworms of the five dogs, and two were fed eggs of the *Tænia hydatigena* produced in the two dogs from the feedings of *Cysticercus tenuicollis*. One sheep was kept as a check. All sheep fed with eggs from the tapeworms of the five dogs receiving

muscle cysts developed cysts in the muscles, but no *Cysticercus tenuicollis*; both sheep fed eggs of *Tænia hydatigena* developed *Cysticercus tenuicollis*, but no cysts in the muscles. The check sheep and other sheep of the same lot had no cysticerci of any sort.

The new cysticercus is a source of considerable loss to the western sheep man and warrants careful prophylactic measures, such as the destruction of the carcasses of dead sheep and the employment of vermicide treatment for dogs.

Mr. Foster presented a paper entitled "Some Atypical Forms of the Eggs of *Ascaris lumbricoides*." In examining feces or in dissecting ascarids, certain atypical shapes of ascarid eggs are not uncommonly met with. Some of these eggs are very much longer and narrower than the normal eggs, the length, up to 107 micra, being well outside of the limits given in texts. Sometimes nearly all the eggs in an ascarid will be of this sort. Another atypical form has no trace of the usual external mammilated albuminous covering, although segmentation shows that fertilization has occurred. The third form is the unfertilized egg, the unsegmented central embryonic mass filling the entire shell. A recognition of these forms is important in microscopic examination of feces.

The secretary presented a paper by M. C. Hall and J. T. Muir entitled "A Critical Study of a Case of Myiasis due to *Eristalis*." A five-year-old boy in Colorado Springs, Colo., during the summer of 1912, showed a complex of nervous and digestive disturbances, with emaciation due apparently to excessive vomiting. The case was diagnosed as worm infestation. Immediately after defecation following the administration of a vermicide, an active larva of *Eristalis* was found in the slop jar. A critical examination of the possibility of myiasis due to "rat-tailed larvæ," and of the circumstances in the case discussed, more especially the prompt recovery of the patient, leads the authors to the conclusion that this is probably a genuine case of myiasis. The evidence is more complete and detailed than in any other published case dealing with myiasis due to these larvæ, the other cases being given in detail in the paper. Additional unpublished cases from the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry and the U. S. Bureau of Entomology were noted. There appear to have been only seven published cases of myiasis credited to "rat-tailed larvæ."

MAURICE C. HALL,
Secretary